

# National Plant Materials Program Knox City PMC

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Center



# Mission of the Plant Materials Program

- The mission of the Plant Materials Program is to develop and transfer effective state-of-the-art plant science technology to meet customer and resource needs.

# The National Plant Materials Program

- ◆ seeks to address the needs of field offices and land managers in both the public and private sector
- ◆ transfers technology by working with NRCS field offices and other cooperators to apply new conservation methods using plants

# The National Plant Materials Program

- ◆ works with a broad range of plant species, with focus on using native plants as a healthy way to solve conservation problems and protect ecosystems

# Other PM Program Facts

- ◆ has released over **470 improved conservation plants**, of which over 300 are available commercially
- ◆ plant releases and associated technology are incorporated into Field office Technical Guides and become standards for conservation practices
- ◆ the program provides plant recommendations and technology for many Farm Bill programs. E.g. CRP, EQIP

# Other PM Program Facts

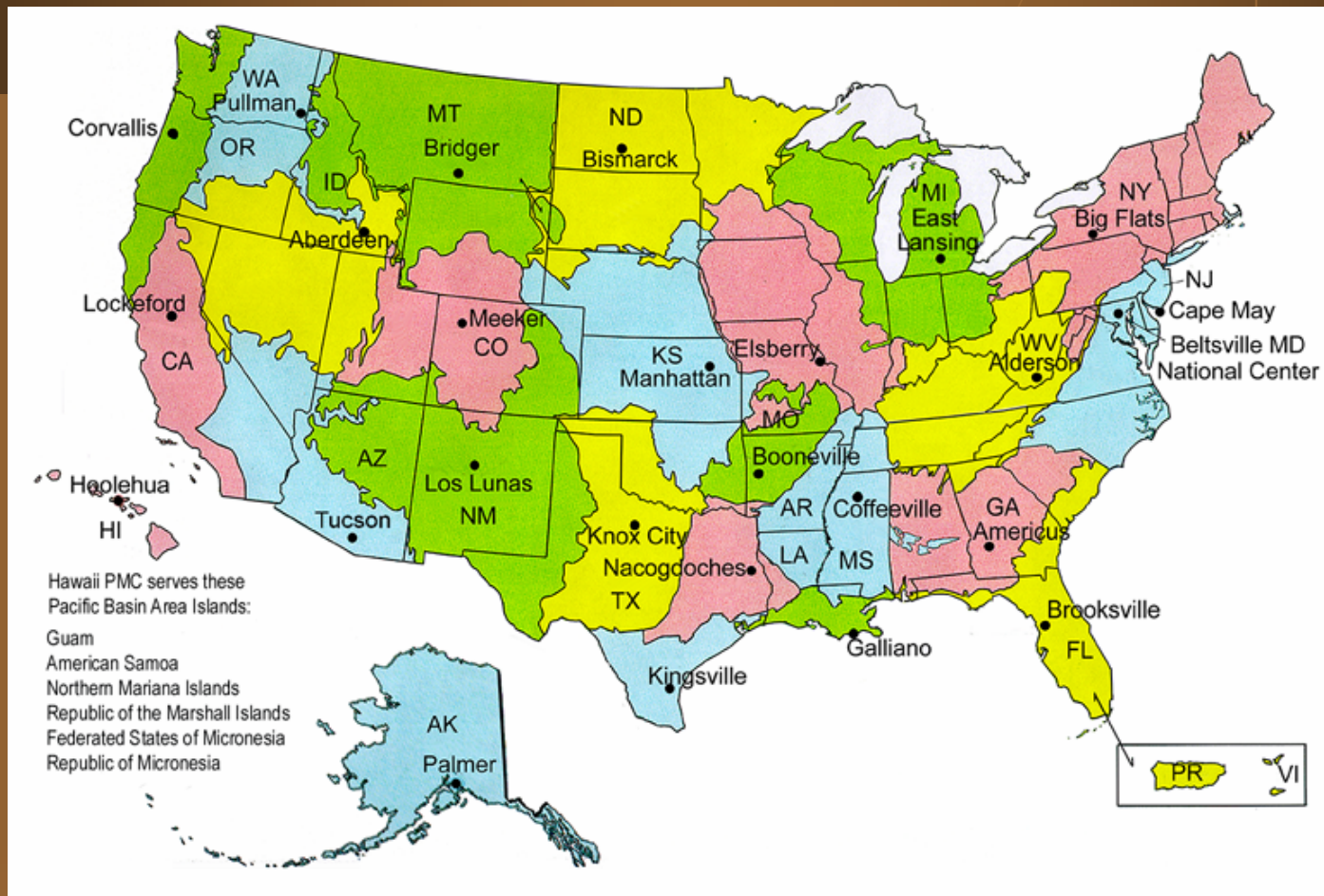
- ◆ We work with environmental concerns such as native plant issues, controlling noxious and invasive plants, and protecting threatened and endangered species.
- ◆ The Plant Materials Program provides outreach assistance to tribal groups and limited resource farmers

# How do we accomplish this?

- ◆ Through a Program that includes **27 Plant Materials Centers** and **17 Plant Materials Specialist** located nationwide to service all 50 states and territories



# Location and Service Areas of Plant Materials Centers

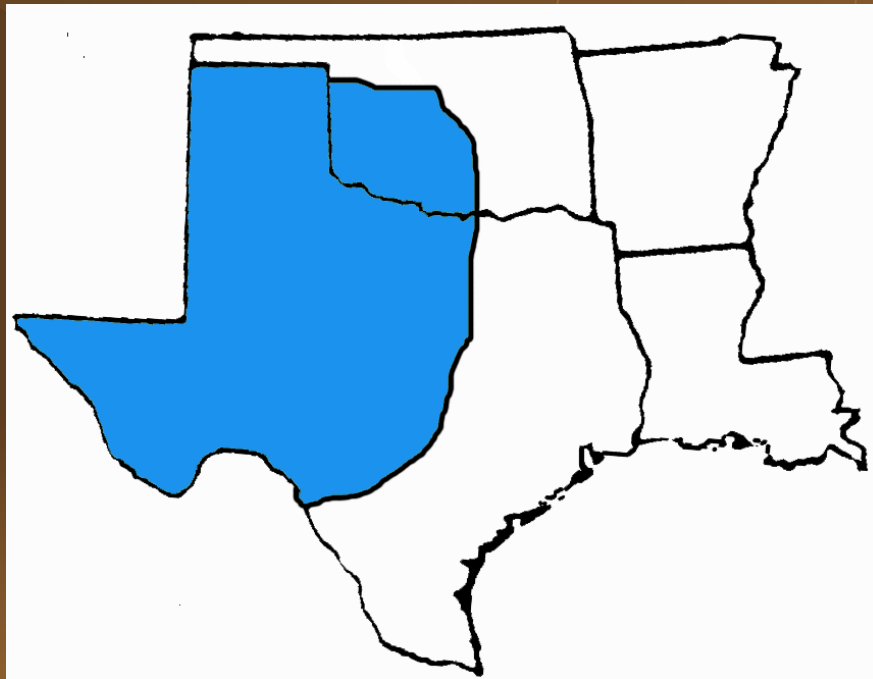




# Knox City PMC

- ◆ The James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center (PMC) at Knox City, Texas, was established in 1964. The Center is responsible for developing conservation plants and cultural techniques for use on targeted Major Land Resource Areas (MLRA) in Texas and Oklahoma.
- ◆ The area served in Texas includes all or portions of nine MLRAs ranging in size from 800,000 acres to over 23 million acres. The area served in southwestern Oklahoma comprises parts of five MLRAs in 27 counties totaling over 16 million acres.
- ◆ The Center is located approximately 4 miles NW of Knox City, Texas, in the Rolling Red Plains Land Resource Area.

# Knox City Plant Materials Center Service Area



# How a PMC functions

- ◆ PM issues and concerns from the field are presented to PMC at Plant Materials Technical Committee meetings
- ◆ Recommendations are passed to State Conservationist through STC Advisory Meeting
- ◆ STC review and approve activities as PMC resources permit

# Field Studies and Technology Transfer

- ◆ Studies address resource needs from the field
  - ◆ Plant Selection Studies
  - ◆ Field Based Technology Studies
  - ◆ Information Based Technology

# Assistance to Field Operations

- **Development of new plant cultivars** - provides a wide and diverse range of plant solution to address conservation needs as identified in NRCS programs (CRP, EQIP, WRP). KCPMC has released 41 improved plant varieties to address conservation problems.
- **Foundation seed production** - allows FO to recommend proven and quality plant materials to address conservation practices.
- **PM Information** - PMCs provide fact sheets, plant guides, brochures, and technical report to guide and assist FO personnel through the decision process when working with cooperators. Information may also directly support other NRCS information campaigns (i.e. Conservation Buffers, Backyard Conservation, etc.).

# Other Assistance to Field Operations

- Outlet to call when needing up to date plant science information.
- Opportunities to limited resource producers allowing for the small scale production of plants and seeds that may not be feasible on a larger commercial scale.
- Tour and learning facility. **KCPMC provides local school children an opportunity to learn about and appreciate plants in their environment.**

# USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Program

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